Quiz – Newsworthiness Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

proximity timeliness prominence

conflict novelty human interest

**Directions**: For each of the following scenarios, choose one (or more terms) which explain the situation’s newsworthiness. Briefly explain your choice.

* A Secret Service agent assigned to the President is arrested and charged with DUI.

Prominence – connected to the President of the US

Conflict – laws broken by law enforcement

Novelty – this type of story doesn’t happen often

* Terrorists hold 140 people hostage in a Texas stadium.

Conflict – laws broken, people threatened/assaulted

Novelty – this type of story doesn’t happen often

Human Interest – People may be frightened, worried, sad, angry, etc…

* A whale swims the wrong way in a channel and is trapped.

Human Interest – people worry about whale and want to see it free

Novelty – this type of story doesn’t happen often

* Tomorrow is Patriot’s Day, the anniversary of 9-11.

Timeliness – the story takes place tomorrow – September 11th

Prominence – this horrific event is well known

Human Interest – people may feel nostalgic, grief, triumph, etc…

* Actor Robin Williams committed suicide.

Prominence – Robin Williams was a well-known actor.

Human Interest – people make feel shock, disbelief, grief, etc…

Timeliness – it just happened

* Basketball Legend, Michael Jordan, collapses and is rushed to the hospital.

Prominence – Michael Jordan is a well known athlete.

Human Interest – people may feel sadness, anger, worry, etc…

Novelty – this type of situation doesn’t happen often

* Our football team beat Kempsville on Friday night 27 – 20.

Proximity – it happened in Virginia Beach

Novelty – Landstown is not known to win often

Timeliness – this happened last Friday night

* A retired Norfolk police officer celebrates his 100th birthday.

Novelty – Few people live until their 100 birthday.

Human Interest – people may feel happiness, empathy, etc…

Proximity – the man is from Norfolk, VA

**Directions**: For each of the following scenarios, add details to justify the situation’s newsworthiness. Briefly explain your choice using one of these terms

proximity timeliness prominence conflict novelty human interest

* A fight breaks out among players during a sporting event.

A fight breaks out among players during an NFL game, and several people are injured and rushed to the hospital.

Prominence – NFL teams and players are well known.

Conflict – the fight escalated to the point of serious injury; charges could be filed

Novelty – this type of thing doesn’t happen often

* A young girl is enrolled in a high school class.

A young girl who is the star of a Disney show is enrolled at Landstown HS.

Prominence – actors on Disney shows are typically well known in schools.

Proximity – she is enrolling at a VB school

Novelty – it is unusual for something like this to happen

* A lost kitten returns home safely.

A lost kitten belonging to Halle Berry returns home safely after being missing for two months.

Prominence – Halle Berry is a well-known actress.

Novelty – it is unusual for something like this to happen

Human Interest – people may feel relieved; the public loves a happy ending

* A woman files for divorce.

After being abused physically and mentally for six years, the woman leaves her husband and files criminal charges against him.

Conflict – laws were broken; there are two sides to the story

Human Interest – people may feel angry, disturbed, sad; the public loves to hear of a person overcoming an obstacle

* A Virginia Beach man buys a winning lottery ticket.

A Virginia Beach homeless man is given money, buys a winning Mega Million jackpot lottery ticket.

Human Interest – people may feel happiness; the public loves a feel-good story, especially if it’s an “underdog”

Prominence – Mega Million jackpot contest is well known

Novelty – this type of situation doesn’t happen often, if ever